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19 March 1957

**Specific Statistical Requirements to be Levied on
Department of State.**

1. The Statistical Handbooks recently published by a number of Satellite nations appear to provide some new flexibility from their traditional policy of withholding foreign trade statistics. It appears opportune, therefore, to suggest that Department of State take action on this issue and officially request some of the information not yet available through overt sources.

2. Officially the Department of State approach might take the form of a request for exchange of specified official trade statistics. In the U.S., these data are published on an unclassified basis, and readily available to foreign officials already. Our request would therefore entail a relatively innocuous "quid pro quo" on our part for information which would prove invaluable in our attempts to analyze Bloc trade. Refusal by Satellite officials would have no effect on the availability of existing channels for such information.

3. If Department of State feels it is undesirable to go ahead with this project in its entirety, it is suggested that the ORR request be limited to those Satellites already producing Statistical Handbooks (i.e. Poland, East Germany, and Hungary) or, at the very minimum, to Poland alone. Poland's relative independence from Moscow's dictation and its negotiations for a U.S. loan may make it particularly susceptible to this proposal, which is, after all, a normal procedure among nations engaged in commercial intercourse.

4. Specifically our initial request might include only the volume of each Satellite's trade (imports and exports) with all countries of the world from 1946 to the present and if negotiations proceed on an orderly basis, the commodity composition of such trade might be included. The success of these negotiations might presage almost unlimited possibilities for the accumulation of necessary intelligence in almost all areas of ORR's responsibility.

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